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PP-96A report of epidemic occurrence and elimination of local transmission of Malaria in endemic region of Ardabil province (Parsabad District)

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Background & Objective: In the last 50 years successful achievements have been received in the northwest of Iran for controlling malaria. However, since 1991 due to excessive travelling of local people in the border cities of Iran and Republic of Azerbaijan, development of the disease has been reported in the Parsabad district. It seems the existence of favorable climatic condition for vector, low immunity to malaria, and mainly being in the neighborhood of Azerbaijan have led to the outbreak and establishment of the disease. So, this study was conducted to show the role of proper planning in controlling of an epidemic occurrence.

Methods: Breaking out the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia in 1995 and entering of infected people from the borderlines and habitation of them in Aslandoz was the main reason for the epidemic occurrence of malaria. Consequently, the disease spread to Parsabad and the number of infected cases due to local transmission increased to 500. Following the controlling measures, the five-year operational plan of the province was provided and since 2007 taken into action. The most important actions in this plan were active and passive supporting and intensifying of early case detection, early treatment of positive cases, entomological investigations, pesticide spraying by long lasting insecticides, using biocontrol agents (larvivorous fish and larvicidal *Bacillus*) and intensifying of informative activities by health workers.

Results: By using the five-year operational plan of the province in Parsabad, the number of local transmission of the disease decreased from 541 in 2001 to zero in 2005-2009 which led to elimination of local transmission.

Suggestions: Regarding to elimination of local transmission of the disease in endemic region of province and being in the neighborhood of Azerbaijan's villages, maintaining of the present situation, supporting of the five-year operational plan of the Province Health Center, and particularly case detecting and larvicidal activities by continual monitoring are necessary.

Key Words: elimination, Ardabil province, local transmission.